(c) what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSTz MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Due to world-wide recession in the Iron and Steel Industry, there has been some decline in Iron Ore exports. However, iron ore exports from Goa were higher during 1991-92 as compared to the previous year, 1990-91. Withdrawal of export duty on iron ore in the budget proposals for 1993-94 will provide relief to iron ore exporters.

Recession in Steel and Iron Ore Mining Industries

1475. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel and Iron Ore mining industries are facing the worst periods of recession; and

(b) if so the steps being taken to face and to revive the projections in view of the national and international scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). At present there is some slugishness in demand for steel items which is primarily due to several factors including tight money market position, seasonal variations in demand and lower off-take by some of the user. industries. The measures contained in the budget proposal for 1993-94 for idnustrial revival are expeced to stimulate demanor steel. As regards the iron ore mining industry, there has been some decline in the export demand for Iron Ore due to world-wide recession in the Iron & Steel Industry. However, the indigenous demand for iron ore has been increasing with the setting up of new iron and steel units in the country. Withdrawal of export duty on iron ore in the budget proposals for 1993-94 is also expected to provide relief to the iron ore exporters.

Water Supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1476. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to finance projects for water supply from River Godavari for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals to meet water requiremrents of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the township of the steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No Sir.

(b) The water requirements for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant's operations and the Township of the Steel Plant are met from the Yeleru and Rayavada Projects.

Decontrol of PIG Iron

1477. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decontrolled Pig Iron but nothing is being done to reduce the Custom Duty on imported pig iron;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat Small Industries Corporation in Gujarat distribute the pig iron to small scale units; and

(c) what steps are being taken to stop the new entrants in the distribution arrangement system after the decontrol of th epig iron?

THE MINI STER OF STATE THE MINISTER OF STATE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: (a) Pricing and distribution of pig iron was deregulated w.e.f 16-1-92. In the budget proposels for 1993-94, Customs Duty on import of pig iron

has been reduced from 35 per cent to 20 per cent.

(b) and (c): The allocation of pig iron by Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI & S) for the Small Scale Units in the State of Gujarat is made only to the Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation.

Setting up of PIG Iron Plants in Private Sector

1478. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major pig iron plants are proposed to be set up in the country in the rivate sector;

(b) if so, the places identified for the purpose in different States; and

(c) the details of their capacity and employment generation potentialities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c): Manufacture of pig iron is delicensed and subject to certain locational restrictions, Government approval is not required for the setting up of pig iron manufacturing facilities in the private sector. Accordingly it is for entrepreneurs to decide on various project parametres like capacity, employment, location etc Government has issued a set of "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in ron and Steel Industry" in October 1992. These Guidelines have inter-alia identified the following possible sites in various States for pig iron manufacture:—

	Sites	State
1.	Purulia	West Bengal
2.	Raigarh	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Bilaspur	-do-
4.	Raipur	-do-
5.	Durg	do-
6.	Daitari	
7.	Pipavev	Gujarat
8.	Bhavnagar	-do-
9.	Dahg	-do-
10.	Kudal	Maharashtra
11.	Mangalore	Karnataka
12.	Goa	Goa

It has been emphasised in the Guidelines that this is only an indicative list. The choice of the site is left to the best commercial/economic judegment of the entrepreneurs who would need of undertake detailed feasibility studies before taking a final decision.

Footpath Dwellers in the Country

1479. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the estimated number of footpath dwellers in the four major cities of the country.

(b) whether Government have drawn a plan to provide them shelter and other basic facilities, if so, the details therof; and

(c) whether Government propose to make these schemes self-supporting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THF MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The enumeration of houseless population is done at the time of census operations. The data on houseless population according to 1991 census is not yet available. How-